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12/14/01

CASE DOCKET NO. DE920000081US1
Date: December 14, 2001

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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the Patent Application of: under Rule 1.53(f)

ASSIGNEE NAME: International Business Machines Corporation

ASSIGNEE RESIDENCE: Armonk, New York

Inventor(s): Stefan Alfons Hepper, Klaus Rindtorff and Thomas Schaeck

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Enclosed are:

☒ (2) Sheets of Formal Drawings.

☒ Declaration and Power of Attorney is attached to the application, unsigned.

☒ A certified copy of a European Patent Application No. 00128497.5.

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Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Hepper et al.
Serial No.: To be assigned
Filed: Herewith
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Docket No.: DE920000081US1
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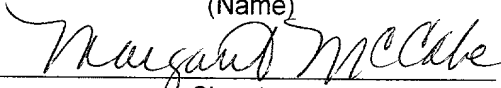
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